



REPORT OF THE WELFARE OFFICER

As with many New Hampshire communities, in 2007 our department was challenged with a record number of applications for assistance. An overwhelming factor was due to a lack of full time sustainable employment, costs of gasoline, household fuel and utilities with prices far beyond the reach of our clients, causing them to make difficult decisions as to whether they should pay rent or utilities. Issues become complex due to the cost of living being much higher than the wages made by these individuals. As a result, these cases become very time-consuming for our department, resulting in many hours being spent in order to review each application and to provide assistance when possible.

Although we maintain the philosophy that General Assistance is a fund of "the last resort", our clients must have exhausted all other means of economic resources before coming to the Town. In Alton we are fortunate to have Alton Community Services Program as an in-town resource. Our clients are referred to them as part of our welfare application process. A.C.S.P. is not only a food pantry, they will provide help in other ways such as rent, utilities and prescriptions.

This Department administrators the caregivers working for the Heidke Trust Fund. We are fortunate to have this service available to senior citizens. If as you read this report, you know of any senior citizen who may need assistance, please call us at the Town Hall 875-2161.

I also wish to thank the Heidke Fund Caregivers, Russell Bailey, Paulette Wentworth, and Sheri Emerson, Alton Community Services Program and others who have helped the department this past year.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

General Assistance	
Housing.....	\$22,116.00
Food.....	\$ 2,331.98
Utilities	\$8,103.26
Miscellaneous.....	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 24,551.24

Heidke Trust Fund Assistance	
Total	\$ 53,999.12

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Rockwood, Welfare Officer